
CENTRAL MONTANA REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
A Consortium of Health Care Facilities
Dedicated to the Care of the Trauma Patient

CENTRAL REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2004
Benefis Healthcare, Great Falls, MT.

PRESENT: Michael Orcutt, MD, CRTAC Chairman
Pete Lucas, RN, CRTAC Secretary, Great Falls
Carol Kussman, RN, Helena
Jennie Wicks, RN, Liberty County Hospital
Janelle Brownelle, RN, Marias Medical Center
Riki Handstede, RN, Northern Medical Center
Rosie Rosalez, EMT-P, Great Falls
Linda Williams, Fort Benton DES & Ambulance
Ken Downs, EMT-P, Montana Community Ambulance
Dean Stockton, EMT-I, Great Falls Emergency Services
James Laidlaw, EMT-P, Glacier County Ambulance
Myron Frydenlund, Toole County Ambulance
Julie Birkenbuel, EMT, I-15 QRT

GUESTS: Thom Danenhower, State Injury Prevention Program Coordinator

ABSENT: Representatives from:

Choteau	Rocky Boy
Big Sandy	Fort Belknap
Browning	Townsend
Conrad	Cutbank
Fort Benton	

Chairman Michael Orcutt, MD at 1310 p.m., called the Central Montana Rural Trauma Advisory Committee (CRTAC) to order. Benefis Healthcare hosted a lunch prior to the meeting. Roll call was taken. The minutes of the last meeting were re-capped and approved. A Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium planning committee meeting was held prior to lunch and the CRTAC meeting.

STATE TRAUMA CARE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: Dr. Orcutt provided an overview of the structure and function of the STCC. Also discussed was the restructuring of the EMS program as far as moving the oversight from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Labor. Medical Directors will be obligated to attend an educational session on providing medical direction to ambulances and QRT's. Also discussed was the possibility of being a beneficial topic for the upcoming Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium (RMRTS).

CRTAC SUBCOMMITTEES:

- 1. Injury Prevention and Public Education:** Pete provided an overview of upcoming courses offered in Great Falls and the region. Pete elicited dates of upcoming educational opportunities to include a TNCC (Trauma Nursing Core Course) course available in Great Falls February 2-3. A STN (Society of Trauma Nurses) course was completed in Fort Benton with 20 participants. Another STN is a possibility in White Sulphur Springs in the late winter. A PHTLS course is being held in Great Falls on February 21-22. This course is full. ATLS dates have been chosen and will be located in Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, and Missoula in 2004. The course is now mobile and the use of a special manikin has been approved by the ACS-COT. "TEAM" presentations are being scheduled for Choteau and White Sulphur Springs. Havre has also voiced interest. More educational offerings to come.
- 2. Pre-Hospital:** Linda stated that discussion evolved around the new EMS Rules and Regulations. Questions around the region regarding these changes can be directed to Kris Cavazos at 841-2380. Discussed the PHTLS course and the STN course provided in Fort Benton.
- 3. Regional Trauma Plan:** No report available at this time.
- 4. Quality Improvement:** No cases were available for review. Dr. Orcutt emphasized there should be an open and free exchange of information, not criticism. There is one case that will need to be reviewed; however the key players in the case were not available today. He also urged facilities to take advantage of the case reviews and to contact the committee if interesting cases arise.

STATE TRAUMA REPORT: Ken Leighton Boster has resigned. Budget cuts are hampering the DHHS at present, and the department may end up as a smaller section. The DHHS could move from a health promotion focus to a chronic disease focus in the future. The EMS web site has posted the EMS changes. Rules and regulations need to be in place for the trauma system in Montana. Kim Todd has been feverishly working on the rules and should be finalized soon. Kim has been out of town with a family emergency, however will be available on cell phone at 431-1942.

STATE INJURY PREVENTION REPORT: Tom provided some statistics from 2003. Drowning deaths totaled 16 for 2003. More deaths are alcohol or Methamphetamine involved. There seems to be more boating accidents (ETOH related) than in past years. Tom also discussed upcoming Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) courses and dates will be forthcoming.

CRTAC EDUCATION GRANT FROM THE GENERAL FUND:

The CRTAC has received another \$5000 grant from the state to provide regional education. This money will help defray the costs associated with TNCC, ENPC, STN, PHTLS, and PEPP. Please contact Pete if interested in above-mentioned courses. Most or all of the costs may be defrayed via the grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 1400 after roundtable, because of a conflict with telemedicine.

The next CRTAC meeting will be in Great Falls and is on April 22, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pete Lucas, RN, TNC
Secretary, Central RTAC
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